

SMOKE FUND TAKES \$3,000 LEAP IN DAY

It Is Travelling at Speed Which Upsets the Early Prophecies.

\$330 SENT FROM CUBA

Benefit at Claridge Nets \$662 and Other Boosts Are Coming.

Far be it from THE SUN's Tobacco Fund to indulge in any crowing on its own account. However, it feels it is due its share of friends and supporters to make special mention of the fact that it has gained almost \$3,000 since this time yesterday morning, bringing the total well above \$152,000.

Yesterday \$152,412.20 looked mighty good. But that matter it seems only the other day when congratulations were received on the attainment of the \$100,000 mark. The fund was hailed as a wonder of wonders when \$100,000 was reached. Strange, isn't it, in what small things one takes credit when one is very young? And as the fund is yet a youngster it is yet to reach its sixth birthday, measuring the anniversaries by months, not years—the wonder when it is half grown and really gets in its stride seems limitless.

When the \$100,000 mark was passed there was a rush of parties to give the fund a shove in the direction of the double century line. Some persons there were, not unfriendly ones, either, who believed the fund's advance made in those early days would be only temporary; who suggested that it represented only the desire of the public to speed the fund's way to the goal. They predicted that the higher the goal in sight the slower the progress.

Prophecy Mistaken.

These prophecies were mistaken. The fund is climbing more rapidly than ever before. A rate of speed which seemed remarkable a few weeks ago looks commonplace now. The simple truth of the matter is that Americans have become aroused to the reality of this war, and with the consciousness that it is no child's play in which the nation has engaged have come the determination on the part of thousands of individuals not in the fighting lines to do their very best part here at home.

The most effective way any stay-at-home can do his part is to help the soldier perform his. And evidences have multiplied that what the soldier wants to make him happy, what he needs to make him efficient, is tobacco. The hundreds of appreciative postcards received by contributors from the fellows whom tobacco has helped to cheer, the convincing testimony possible to obtain. As has been said before, the soldiers themselves are their own best campaigners.

Now, with the welfare of the fighting boys in mind, attention may be called to opportunities immediately at hand for demonstrations of patriotic patriotism. There was an extraordinary rush of buyers in the United Cigar Stores yesterday, for it was a double certificate day. Fortunately, the stores were arranged for two such days, and patrons who overlooked their great chance yesterday may be served to-day.

Will Double Smokes.

There will be a lot of Christmas tobacco gift buying for every purchaser who receives coupons for certificates. The value of these coupons is exactly double the value of those ordinarily given him. Wherefore, coupons and certificates deposited in THE SUN's fund will carry just twice the usual number of smokes to the soldiers and perform double the customary amount of good.

Now the wise man and the patriotic man will lay in a big supply of tobacco to-day the first because he will get more than usual for nothing, the second because he will be fulfilling a patriotic duty. And be sure that the certificates are placed in the boxes. If they are left on the counters they will do no good to any one.

Now the man who thinks of making Christmas gifts of cigarettes or other forms of haberdashery—and what more acceptable gifts—should go where he can do the most good for the soldiers, while knowing also that he is getting the best and at a reasonable price. The fund suggests a call on Lou Freedman at 1515 Broadway, almost next door to Redford's. Freedman's stock is large and well selected, his prices are right, and a percentage of his gross receipts on this day up to Christmas itself he will donate to the tobacco fund. The store will remain open till midnight to-night.

Several generations of opera singers will be represented in the audience at the Christmas concert in the ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria Monday night. Annie Louise Cary, the famous contralto of the 1880s, indeed of the '70s, if one counts from the beginning, and Emma Thursby, who also represents a fine operatic history, are both purchasers of boxes to help the soldiers get smokes. Alice Nielson will be present, and so will Lillian Russell, who in her heyday was often counselled to go into grand opera.

To See New Stars.

These splendid stars are eagerly watching the budding operatic career of a girl like Mary Peterson, an American girl, who, like themselves, owes to no one but herself the position she has attained. The former singers are keen to listen also to Clara Clements, who, as an American singer and daughter of Mark Twain, interests them exceedingly. This charming mezzo was studying the piano with Leschetitzky in Vienna when she was advised by well-known musicians there to cultivate her voice and abandon the piano to become a pianist. She took this advice and after study made her first appearance in Florence. Her voice in its warmth and beauty won great praise from Italian composers and Brogi, the most distinguished composer in Florence, offered to write an opera for her. But from the first the concert field was her aim and she has not swerved from it.

The event for Monday night at the Waldorf assumes for music lovers a general a supreme interest, as it is a true departure in the way of benefit performances, figuring as a concert of the highest musical quality, the aid of the great contributing solo-artists, Rudolph Ganz, famous pianist, Miss Peters and Miss Clements, guaranteeing the play "What's Your Husband Doing?"

RED CROSS MASS MEETING

Hippodrome, Sunday Eve., Dec. 16.

St. Peter, Telf. 2-1000, 10th St. N. Y. City.

John McCormack

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Box Office open 2:30 P. M. Sunday.

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BAILEY, 10th St. N. Y. City.

ing" at the Thirty-ninth Street Theatre, is sure of a packed house Monday night, when a share of the proceeds will be given to the Tobacco Fund. The piece itself is reason enough for success, for it is a genuine laughmaker. The actors are spurred every night to greater effort and each of them has determined to make an individual laugh record for himself when Monday night comes.

The scene in which Jane Cooper and Hiale Hamilton indulge in a "honeysuckle" is one of the funniest seen on the stage in recent times, and the funnier perhaps as these accomplished actors invest it with the air of comedy rather than the force it suggests. Every purchaser of a seat for Monday will know he is helping the men over there to enjoy themselves and at the same time providing enjoyment for himself.

Contribution From Cuba.

Interest in THE SUN's Tobacco Fund is far more than nationwide. Yesterday the following letter was received from Lawrence B. Ross of Havana, the general representative in Cuba of the Ford Motor Company:

"To help the good cause of smokes I have taken up a collection among my subordinates, and have pleasure in handing you herewith my check for \$132.00."

Attached to the letter was a list of the contributors, thirty-three in all. Many of the names will be recognized as of Spanish origin, in which he told of his reason to know that American soldiers are champions of genuine liberty.

At its annual meeting, held Wednesday night, the New York Lined Association raised \$55, which was brought into the fund yesterday. The collection was taken after Corporal R. B. Gentles of the Twenty-seventh Infantry had made an address in which he told of the value of tobacco to the fighting man. Having seen service at the front he knows, Corporal Gentles' action was purely voluntary, and came as a surprise to the fund.

Moore A. Craig, secretary and treasurer of the Surety Underwriters' Association of the City of New York, sent a check for \$25, representing a voluntary collection taken at the organization's regular meeting the other day.

THE SUN's Tobacco Fund night at the Claridge, Wednesday, netted \$462.50 for the fund. At this entertainment a case of wine donated by R. C. H. B. was purchased for \$200 by A. Chapal of C. E. Chapal, Peres & Co., 409-15 Broadway, and another \$100 by J. W. Chapal, 409-15 Broadway.

When Miss Lillian Russell was at the auction block, Robert Hilliard bid for \$100 a photograph record autographed by Caruso, and Morris Rosenthaler bought another for \$75. The Claridge management donated the restaurant cover charges to the fund, these amounting to \$104.50.

Franko and his excellent orchestra played a prominent part in contributing to the success of the evening. A collection from contribution boxes in some of the Schulte cigar stores yesterday netted \$1,207.36, bringing the receipts from that firm up to \$12,324.20.

It should be remembered that these boxes are empty only to be filled again. Every customer who has the welfare of the soldiers at heart should deposit his coupons and certificates. Also through these stores tobacco orders payable to the fund may be placed, and to every dollar's worth D. A. Schulte, the president, generously adds 30 cents. This is his personal contribution.

How the Fund Stands.

THE SUN and THE EVENING SUN, \$100,000
United Cigar Stores, \$100,000
Total, \$200,000
New contributions, \$1,207.36
Total, \$201,207.36

Grand total, \$201,207.36
Claridge, Dec. 12, \$462.50
Total, \$201,669.86

Contributors:
H. Simon, \$100.00
J. J. Calvo, \$100.00
A. P. Gomez, \$100.00
J. K. Quinn, \$100.00
J. P. Quinn, \$100.00
J. M. Quinn, \$100.00
J. N. Quinn, \$100.00
J. O. Quinn, \$100.00
J. P. Quinn, \$100.00
J. Q. Quinn, \$100.00
J. R. Quinn, \$100.00
J. S. Quinn, \$100.00
J. T. Quinn, \$100.00
J. U. Quinn, \$100.00
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J. W. Quinn, \$100.00
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MONT BLANC'S FATE SEALED BY FLAME

No Human Effort Could Have Saved Ship at Halifax, Officer Testifies.

NO DRINKING ON CRAFT

Witnesses Deny Presence of Teutons on Imo When Vessels Crashed.

ELIGIBLE MEN MUST QUIT DRAFT BOARDS

Director McCook Begins Investigation for Purpose of Eliminating Them.

Acting upon information that a number of men of draft age were working on different local exemption boards throughout the city and were in some cases actual members of the boards, Draft Director Philip J. McCook began an investigation yesterday with the purpose of eliminating all such men.

Mr. McCook was shown a list yesterday morning on which appeared the names of thirty-seven men connected with thirty-one local exemption boards. The list had been compiled from the books of about half of the 132 local boards in Manhattan, Brooklyn and The Bronx. Mr. McCook would not say who had brought the facts to his attention.

He said, however, that there was nothing in the draft law to prevent any one of draft age from being connected with a draft board, but that as a matter of good management and propriety men of draft age would be dropped from all boards as fast as their places could be filled without injury to the draft organization. He has ordered an investigation, which will be conducted by investigators from the office of Adj. Gen. Sieriff.

All of the men whose names were made known to Mr. McCook yesterday have registered as required by the draft law, and only a few of them are registered with boards with which they are connected. Many of them have already been examined and exempted. Other men formerly connected with different boards have been drafted into military service. Most of the names on the list were of men who have been drafted.

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everything being leveled, houses torn apart, trees uprooted, factories nothing but piles of rubble. Two hundred freight cars and twenty locomotives were destroyed in the freight yards. In the Hillis foundry out of sixty-two men sixty-one were killed. Two hundred and thirty-five men were working in the dry dock and 120 of them were killed, but the dock itself was not damaged.

The death of which I left on Thursday was officially 1,236 persons, including those identified, those not identified and the persons who were still missing. The organization work to take care of the people was already in wonderful running order and the women of the city are giving all their working moments to aid. There are committees for every conceivable need and they are all doing excellent work.

"The people were tremendously grateful for the response of the American people. One thing that amazed and pleased them beyond words was that a relief train from Boston arrived before the train from St. John, New Brunswick. Men and women in the city have been through the San Francisco fire, among those who first went from Boston, and their aid was invaluable."

J. Morris of the Morris of the Club went to Halifax on Thursday, taking \$5,000 of a \$15,000 fund which had been raised in addition to the \$10,000 carried by Mr. Currie. The fund was to raise a total of \$25,000. The following are some of the contributions of more than \$1,000 that had been sent to Halifax before Mr. Currie left:

Mr. Robert L. Jordan	\$1,000
J. P. Whitney & Co. of New York	1,000
Theresa & William of Canada	1,000
Thomas & Stevens	1,000
City of Halifax	1,000
George A. Draper of Boston	1,000
Hudson Bay Company	1,000
Red Cross of Canada	1,000
City of Winnipeg	1,000
City of Vancouver	1,000
City of Toronto	1,000
City of Montreal	1,000
Canadian Pacific Railroad	1,000
City of St. John	1,000
City of St. John	1,000
Canadian Iron and Steel Company	1,000
Canadian Society of New York	1,000
Canadian Club of New York	1,000
Donation of Canada	1,000

CAMP MILLS TO BE ABANDONED.

Hempstead Plain Site Found Unsuitable for Winter.

Camp Albert H. Mills on the Hempstead Plain, Long Island, where the Rainbow Division of the National Guard was organized for embarkation, is to be abandoned for the winter. Only a few troops of the Sunset Division, which succeeded the Rainbow Division there, remained last night and it was announced that within a few days the camp will be completely empty.

Secretary Baker explained last night that the camp was only suitable for the summer months and he intimated that after certain changes have been made it will be reopened next spring. The last week or so at the camp, it was said, has shown its unsuitability for winter use. Situated most of it on the lower part of the plain, the camp was exposed to the winds and rains have worked a hardship on the tented gypsies.

N. Y. PIERS WELL PROTECTED.

McCarthy, Woods and Flynn Confer on Guard Plans.

New York's pier situation was discussed yesterday by United States Marshal McCarthy and Police Commissioner Arthur Woods. Later Mr. McCarthy and William J. Flynn, chief of the secret service, held a conference on the emergency situation, following which Mr. McCarthy announced that plans are now perfected for handling the problem here in all its phases.

Commissioner Woods has compiled a census of the principal piers of the city, especially those from which stores and supplies for the United States troops and those of the Allies are being shipped. Each pier is so minutely described that the police report that the Federal officials can at a glance detect any defect in its police and fire fighting and lighting arrangements. This report, together with recommendations for needed improvements, was forwarded to Washington. A similar report on all other piers in the city will be completed in a few days.

HARVARD HONORS FIGHTERS.

Senior Class Marshals Picked From Men in U. S. Service.

Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 14.—The highest honor of the senior class at Harvard University were awarded to-day to men absent from college in army or navy service. In making the six nominations for class marshals the following men were picked: Walter H. Wheeler, an Ensign, and William H. Murray, a sea-man in the navy; Thomas C. Thacher, Morrill Wiggins, John M. Franklin and George A. Perry, Lieutenants in the National Army.

All have been athletic stars. Wheeler was captain-elect of the football eleven, Perry was captain-elect of the hockey team, Franklin was a crew man and Murray, Thacher and Wiggins were among the most promising members of the varsity football squad.